

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force,  
Joey Cardenas, Alex Jimenez,  
Emelda Menendez, Tomacita Olivares,  
Jose Olivares, Alejandro Ortiz  
and Rebecca Ortiz,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

Rick Perry, in his official capacity  
as Governor of the State of Texas,

Defendant.

[illegible]

§ Civil Action No. 5:11-cv-00490

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

**TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE:**

# I. INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiffs are an association and individual registered voters that seek, on behalf of themselves and their members, declaratory and injunctive relief to enforce the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
2. Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment that the Texas congressional and Texas House of Representatives redistricting plans violate their civil rights because the plans unlawfully dilute the voting strength of Latinos. Plaintiffs further seek a declaratory judgment that the Texas congressional and Texas House of Representatives redistricting plans discriminate against them on the basis of race

and national origin. Plaintiffs seek a permanent injunction prohibiting the calling, holding, supervising or certifying of any future congressional or Texas House elections under the redistricting plans. Plaintiffs seek the creation of congressional and Texas House redistricting plans that will not cancel out, minimize or dilute the voting strength of Latino voters in Texas. Plaintiffs further seek costs and attorneys' fees.

## **II.**

### **JURISDICTION**

3. Jurisdiction is based upon 28 U.S.C. 1343a (3) & (4) and upon 28 U.S.C. 1331 for causes of action arising from 42 U.S.C. 1973 and 1973c. Jurisdiction for Plaintiffs' claim for declaratory relief is based upon 28 U.S.C. 2201 and 2202. Jurisdiction for Plaintiffs' claim under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is based upon 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 and 28 U.S.C. 1331. Jurisdiction for Plaintiffs' claim for attorney's fees is based on 42 U.S.C. Sections 1973l(e) and 1988. Venue is proper in this court under 28 U.S.C. 1391(b).

## **III.**

### **PLAINTIFFS**

4. Plaintiff TEXAS LATINO REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE is an unincorporated association of individuals and organizations committed to securing fair redistricting plans for Texas. Organizational members of the Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force include Hispanics Organized for Political Education (HOPE), the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, the National Organization for Mexican American Rights, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, the William C. Velasquez Institute, and Southwest

Workers' Union. Individuals who are members of the Task Force member organizations include Latino registered voters of Texas.

5. Plaintiff Joey Cardenas is Latino and a registered voter of Texas. He resides in Louise, Texas.
6. Plaintiff Alex Jimenez is Latino and a registered voter of Texas. He resides in Fort Worth, Texas.
7. Plaintiff Emelda Menendez is Latina and a registered voter of Texas. She resides in San Antonio, Texas.
8. Plaintiff Jose Olivares is Latino and a registered voter of Texas. He resides in Corpus Christi, Texas.
9. Plaintiff Tomacita Olivares is Latina and a registered voter of Texas. She resides in Corpus Christi, Texas.
10. Plaintiff Alejandro Ortiz is Latino and a registered voter of Texas. He resides in San Antonio, Texas.
11. Plaintiff Rebecca Ortiz is Latina and a registered voter of Texas. She resides in San Antonio, Texas.

#### **IV. DEFENDANT**

12. Defendant RICK PERRY is sued in his official capacity as Governor of Texas. Defendant Perry is the Chief Executive Officer of the State of Texas.

#### **V. FACTS**

13. According to the 2010 Census, the population of Texas is 25,145,561 with a Latino population of 9,460,921 (38%). The Latino voting age population of

- Texas is 34% of the total voting age population. The Latino citizen voting age population of Texas is 25% of the total citizen voting age population.
14. According to the 2010 Census, Latinos comprised approximately 65% of total population growth in Texas between 2000 and 2010.
  15. The current redistricting plan for the Texas House of Representatives was signed into law by Defendant PERRY on June 17, 2011.
  16. The benchmark congressional redistricting plan was ordered into effect on August 4, 2006 by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in *LULAC v. Perry* (No. 2:03-00354).
  17. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature adjourned its Regular Session on May 30, 2011 without having enacted a congressional redistricting plan. On May 31, 2011, the Legislature convened its Special Session. On the same day, Defendant Governor Rick Perry added congressional redistricting to the list of topics for the Legislature to address in the Special Session.
  18. On June 20, the Texas Legislature adopted a new congressional redistricting plan. On June 24, 2011, the Texas Legislature sent the new congressional redistricting plan, known as SB4, to Defendant PERRY for his signature.
  19. On September 25, 1975, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was extended and amended to cover the State of Texas. State and political subdivisions covered by the Act must comply with certain specific procedures. Among them is the requirement that all qualifications, prerequisites, standards practices, or procedures with respect to voting different from those in effect on November 1, 1972 must be determined, either by the United States District Court for the

- District of Columbia or the United States Attorney General, not to have the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race, color or membership in a language minority group.
20. The State of Texas is a covered jurisdiction subject to the requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 1973c. No Texas statewide redistricting plan is legally enforceable prior to receiving federal preclearance.
  21. On July 27, 2006, President George W. Bush signed into law the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, which extended Section 5 for 25 years.
  22. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. 1973, applies nationwide and prohibits voting practices and procedures that result in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race, color or membership in a language minority group. Section 2 is a permanent provision of the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Benchmark Texas Congressional Redistricting Plan

23. There are 32 districts in the benchmark congressional redistricting plan for Texas. Seven of the congressional districts in the benchmark plan are Latino-majority and offer Latinos the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.
24. Following the 2010 Census, Texas was apportioned 36 congressional districts.
25. The benchmark congressional redistricting plan contains 7 districts in which Latinos have the opportunity to elect their preferred candidate to Congress.

The Legislature's Congressional Redistricting Plan (C185)

26. The congressional redistricting plan adopted by the Texas Legislature on June 20, 2011 and sent to Defendant PERRY for his signature on June 24, 2011 is known as Plan C185.
27. Plan C185 contains 36 congressional districts and contains an overall population deviation of one.
28. Plan C185 contains 7 districts in which Latinos have the opportunity to elect their preferred candidate to Congress.
29. Plan C185 does not include a Latino-majority congressional district in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.
30. The Latino population of Dallas and Tarrant counties is sufficiently geographically compact to comprise the majority of the citizen voting age persons in a congressional district.
31. A congressional district can be created in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area that will afford Latino voters the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.
32. Plan C185 includes only six congressional districts located in the southern and western portion of the state that offer Latinos the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.
33. The Latino population of Texas is sufficiently geographically compact to comprise the majority of citizen voting age persons in at least seven congressional districts located in the southern and western portion of the state.

34. Seven congressional districts can be created in the southern and western portion of the state that offer Latino voters the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.
35. Plan C185 includes one Latino-majority congressional district in Harris County.
36. The Latino population of Harris County is sufficiently geographically compact to comprise the majority of citizen voting age persons in one congressional district and the majority of voting age persons in a second congressional district.
37. Two congressional districts can be created in Harris County that will afford Latino voters the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.
38. Latinos in Texas, including the areas in which Latino-majority congressional districts can be created, are politically cohesive.
39. Anglos (White Non-Hispanics) vote sufficiently as a bloc to enable them -- in the absence of special circumstances, such as the Latino candidate running unopposed -- usually to defeat the Latino voters' preferred candidates in Texas, including the areas in which Latino-majority congressional districts can be created.
40. Plan C185 interacts with social and historical conditions to cause an inequality in the opportunity of Latino voters to elect representatives of their choice as compared to Anglo voters.

Texas House of Representatives Plan (H283)

41. The new Texas House of Representatives redistricting plan, also known as Plan H283, was signed into law on June 17, 2011. Plan H283 contains a total of 150 House districts. In Plan H283, 34 House districts contain a majority Latino voting

- age population and 30 House districts contain a majority Latino citizen voting age population.
42. Plan H283 contains fewer districts in which Latinos have the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice when compared to the benchmark (2001) Texas House redistricting plan. Plan H283 offers less opportunity for Latinos to elect their preferred candidates to the Texas House of Representatives when compared to the benchmark plan.
  43. The Latino population of Texas is sufficiently geographically compact to comprise the majority of citizen voting age persons in at least 35 Texas House districts.
  44. At least 35 Texas House districts can be created in the state that offer Latino voters the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice.
  45. Latinos in Texas, including the areas in which Latino-majority Texas House districts can be created, are politically cohesive.
  46. Anglos vote sufficiently as a bloc to enable them -- in the absence of special circumstances, such as the Latino candidate running unopposed -- usually to defeat the Latino voters' preferred candidates in Texas, including the areas in which Latino majority Texas House districts can be created.
  47. Plan H283 interacts with social and historical conditions to cause an inequality in the opportunity of Latino voters to elect representatives of their choice as compared to Anglo voters.
  48. Plans C185 and H283 operate to dilute the voting strength of Latinos in the State of Texas.



49. At all times relevant herein, Defendants have acted under color of State law.

**VI.**  
**CAUSES OF ACTION**

50. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1-49 are alleged as if fully set forth herein.

51. Plans C185 and H283 result in a denial or abridgement of the right to vote of individual plaintiffs and organizational plaintiff's members on account of their race, color, or ethnicity, by having the effect of canceling out or minimizing their individual voting strength as minorities in Texas. Plans C185 and H283 do not afford individual plaintiffs and organizational plaintiff's members an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice, and denies individual plaintiffs and organizational plaintiff's members the right to vote in elections without distinction of race, color or previous condition of servitude in violation of 42 U.S.C. Section 1973.

52. Plans C185 and H283 discriminate against Plaintiffs on the basis of race and national origin in violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

53. Plans C185 and H283 have not received the necessary preclearance required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973c. They therefore cannot be implemented unless and until they receives Section 5 preclearance.

**VII.**  
**REQUEST FOR THREE JUDGE COURT**

54. Plaintiffs request a three-judge trial court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 2284.

**VIII.**  
**ATTORNEYS' FEES**

55. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. Sections 1973-1(e) and 1988, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees, expenses and costs.

**IX.**  
**PRAYER**

48. WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs pray that this Court:
- (a) assume jurisdiction of this action and request a three-judge panel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 2284;
  - (b) issue a declaratory judgment finding that Plans C185 and H283 illegally dilute the voting rights of Latino voters in Texas and are unlawful, null and void;
  - (c) permanently enjoin Defendants from calling, holding, supervising or certifying any elections under Plans C185 and H283. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law other than the judicial relief sought herein, and unless the Defendants are enjoined from using Plans C185 and H283, individual plaintiffs and organizational plaintiffs' members will be irreparably harmed by the continued violation of their statutory and constitutional rights;
  - (d) set a reasonable deadline for state authorities to enact or adopt redistricting plans for congressional and Texas House districts that do not dilute, cancel out or minimize the voting strength of Latino voters;
  - (e) if state authorities fail to enact or adopt valid redistricting plans by the Court's deadline, order new redistricting plans for congressional and

Texas House districts that do not dilute, cancel out or minimize the voting strength of Latino voters;

- (h) adjudge all costs against Defendant, including reasonable attorneys fees;
- (i) retain jurisdiction to render any and all further orders that this Court may from time to time deem appropriate; and
- (j) grant any and all further relief to which Plaintiffs may show themselves to be entitled.

DATED: July 1, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE  
AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

/s/ Nina Perales

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**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Complaint has been served in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on June 30, 2011, upon the following parties:

Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas  
State Capitol, Room 2S.1  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Geoffrey S. Connor  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol, Room 1E.8  
P.O. Box 12697  
Austin, TX 78711

/s/ Nina Perales  
Nina Perales